

Royal Geographical and Astronomical Societies, Statistical Society, British Association for the Advancement of Science, Meteorological Office, "Nature," Mr. John Hampden, London; Natural History Society, Montreal; Institut Canadien-Français, Ottawa; Canadian Institute, Toronto; Prof. Thomas Sterry Hunt, Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, Boston; Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Harvard University, Prof. Samuel H. Scudder, Cambridge; American Chemical Society, "The Critic," New York; Brooklyn Entomological Society; Academy of Natural Sciences, College of Pharmacy, Messrs. Henry C. Lea and Henry Phillips, Jr., Philadelphia; Johns Hopkins University, Prof. Ira Remsen, Baltimore; United States Civil Service Commission, Smithsonian Institution, Hydrographic Office, Washington; Col. Charles C. Jones, Jr., Augusta, Ga.; Cincinnati Society of Natural History; Rev. Stephen D. Peet, Chicago; Professors C. F. de Lendero and Raúl Prieto, Mexico.

Dr. J. T. Rothrock read by appointment an obituary notice of the late Hon. Eli K. Price, LL.D., Vice-President of the Society.

And, on motion, the Society was adjourned.

*Biographical Memoir of the late Honorable Eli K. Price, LL.D.,
by J. T. Rothrock, Professor of Botany in the
University of Pennsylvania.*

(Read before the American Philosophical Society, Nov. 19, 1886.)

On the twentieth day of July, 1797, Eli Kirk Price was born in East Bradford township, County of Chester, and State of Pennsylvania. There was nothing in his surroundings, or in his opportunities, which indicated for him a life of more than the average success or usefulness. It is true that his home lay in the centre of what, for our young country, is classic soil. He must in later years have heard from those, who witnessed the battle of Brandywine, the tales and trials of that day which was

so unfortunate to our arms. The field itself had doubtless often been trodden over by him. The very house in which on the first day of each week he was afterwards accustomed to worship still showed on its floors what were said to be the stains of blood from our wounded soldiers who were brought in for medical treatment. Whether this was so or not, there is no doubt that the building was used as a temporary hospital. The whole atmosphere of the region was then, and still is, full of the inspiration of patriotism. Up and down the valley, far as the eye could reach, lay a landscape of singular beauty. The very hills had an individual character, and there was no turn in the roads which wound between them, but brought some new surprise of beauty. To the south and west were "*The hills beyond the Brandywine*," which, once seen in the soft haze of Indian summer, could never be forgotten. What wonder then that an English officer, as he overlooked the region, said: "I am not astonished that these people fight for such a country." The temper of this fiery lad must often have been sorely tried when he learned how his "peace-loving" parents and neighbors had suffered from the depredations of the enemy. Perhaps the discipline of self-control, early enforced by his watchful parents, was one of the secrets of his future success. He never wearied in devotion to the memory of those under whose critical eyes he grew to manhood.

So far as these externals could go, it is true, they were all in his favor, but, as other boys who never came to fill his place in public esteem shared them with him, we must conclude there was in the lad himself a good measure of that holy ambition which goes so far in moulding higher individual destiny.

"Philip, father of Eli, was the fifth in lineal descent from that Philip Price who came into Pennsylvania with the Welsh settlers, and took up Merion, Haverford and Radnor townships in 1682. The name of Price was handed down through four generations from the first settler by a single male representative in each generation."

Rachel, his mother, was a daughter of William Kirk, of East Nantmeal, Chester county, the tenth child of Alphonsus Kirk, who came from the north of Ireland, landed first at Jamestown, Virginia, January 12th, 1689, and shortly after settled in Centre, New Castle county, Delaware.

William Kirk's second wife was Sibilla Davis (of Welsh descent), the mother of Rachel, and hence Eli Kirk Price's grandmother. Philip and Rachel were married October 20th, 1784. For generations Eli's ancestors had all been members of the religious society of Friends.

Though to all "Friends" human strife is a matter of the utmost concern and sadness, one must not infer that they were lacking in courage or in enterprise. On the contrary they have been among the very best of pioneers; often, indeed, they were the first, when principle or human life was at stake, to brave any danger, or to meet any hardship. Under a quiet exterior were often concealed memories of thrilling adventures with outward foes, as well as of desperate struggles with the powers of inborn sin tempting them away from the sober teachings of conscience and honest judgment. The life of no real Friend is uneventful. It may not strike the ear or eye of the world, but it is full of striving after perfect purity in thought, word and deed. It may lack the glamour of popular applause, but it is rich in the solid worth of conscious rectitude.

From a long line of such ancestors came the subject of this sketch. Integrity through all these generations had matured into an instinct in him. It might be said that he despised and hated fraud simply because it was in him to do so, without conscious effort on his part.

Philip Price was among the leading farmers of his day. It was he who introduced the Washington Thorn into Chester county, where for half a century it has been not only a useful hedge, but one of the most characteristic features of the landscape. He was also among the earliest advocates of the use of

mineral fertilizers in agriculture. Judge Peters wrote: "I have heard of none who have been more remarkably successful in the plaster system than Mr. West and Mr. Price." Philip Price was the first President of the Chester County Agricultural Society. He was furthermore one of the earliest to apply the vaccine crust in this community. With a firm faith in its efficacy, he vaccinated all his children at a time when there were more who doubted than believed in its power. Here he stood out, not only as a moral hero, but as a public benefactor. Moreover, it must be remembered, that in that early day there existed, if not open opposition to vaccination, at least a very strong popular prejudice against it.

Neither of the parents of the young Eli was wealthy. Their family was large; eleven in all, of whom he was the eighth. They were industrious and frugal, though unable to give their children what we should call a liberal education. But they did what was perhaps almost as well in encouraging such a thirst for useful knowledge that no ordinary obstacles could quench it. It is true that Eli entered Westtown school in 1812 (as number 772 of the first thousand pupils), but the course there was mainly what we should regard as the necessary, solid branches. Of one thing, however, we may be sure—what was taught was well taught. There was no more sham then than now in that most admirable school.

It may be worth the while to recall how much of our local history and of our advance in the civilized arts Mr. Price was a witness of.

West Chester was not made into a borough until two years after his birth. In the year 1800 the population was but 374. This was more than thirty years before the late Dr. William Darlington said he had hopes of the town because it had become so large that the inhabitants could live off each other. Mr. Price was thirty-five years old before the first railroad entered the town, and this was about three years before there was an

Episcopal church there. The Presbyterian church was perhaps a year earlier, but those vigilant workers, the Methodists, had reached the town about twenty-four years before the Episcopalians or Presbyterians were organized. So much for the now flourishing town of more than seven thousand inhabitants which stands almost within sight of his birthplace.

Even this great city in 1797 contained less than forty thousand inhabitants. All the region beyond Carlisle was the Great West, then, on the whole, perhaps less fully known than any spot of our national domain south of Alaska is to-day. As late as 1802 the inhabitants of the region west of the Alleghany mountains found it easier to send their flour from Pittsburgh to the Antilles by water than to send it to Philadelphia or Baltimore by land. Pittsburgh contained only four hundred houses. Neither anthracite coal nor gas, nor even lucifer matches, were then in use. The pumps stood by the side-walks, the corners were lighted by oil lamps, and the old market houses occupied the middle of the chief thoroughfare in your city. Indeed, the market places still adorn some of the less important streets.

In the year of Mr. Price's birth, every foreign coin, save the Spanish dollar, ceased to be a legal tender within our dominions. He was five years old when the mouth of the Columbia river was discovered by an American, Captain Gray, the same man who but two years earlier had been the first of our citizens to load an American ship with furs on our west coast, trade these in China for tea and bring his vessel back to Boston laden with this precious cargo. This event marked an era in our early commercial history. Mr. Price had heard our early troubles with France discussed in his home, and listened doubtless with a shudder to the details of Burr's atrocious conspiracy. He could remember the Napoleonic wars, and had heard the foolish protests of the Federal party against Jefferson's Louisiana purchase, which opened a magnificent domain for our growing population, and without which our national life would have been in continual jeopardy.

Those were primitive times, though not entirely simple or guileless. Party spirit ran high as now: there was as much crimination and recrimination, as much bribery, billingsgate and official corruption then as now. We look upon them as slow times because there were no railroad monopolies, no corners in grain, no great strikes and only signs of anything like the Wall street of today. Yet those times and those men were the forces which hastened our unprecedented material growth and cemented our national units into a larger, stronger and more productive whole. We may well say, too, that the subject of this sketch stood among the foremost of his contemporaries, for integrity, public spirit and far-sightedness. It is fairly a question whether this generation will leave as much to its credit, or whether we shall as well resist all tendencies toward national or social disintegration.

Of the successful men of this city a large proportion were country lads, many of them from the counties immediately adjacent. It is not improbable that much of Mr. Price's success came from the fact that his duties as a farmer's son had hardened his constitution and given him, along with great endurance, a great tenacity of purpose. There is nothing like regular duty, conscientiously done, to "crystallize vapory intentions." It is, then, to be regarded as a bit of good fortune that he was born in the country and early inured to toil. In one place he tells us, "In 1809, on my twelfth birthday, I reaped my dozen sheaves" [with a sickle].

Yet, with all this, farm life was not much to his liking, for he says he "was fond of reading and entered the counting-house to escape the farm." But the labor there had done its part. He was hardy, and "temperate in all things."

On May 15th, 1815, he entered the famous shipping-house of Thomas P. Cope. Previous to this, however, he had spent a year in the store and family of Mr. J. W. Townsend, in West Chester. This was a good preparation for his duties with the

Copes. He once stated to the writer that his fondness for reading had saved him many a temptation after he had left the farm.

This shipping-house was well known from its connection with the "Cope Liners," those justly celebrated packets between Philadelphia and Liverpool, which before the days of steam vessels were the pride of our city.

They were then the most important vessels which came to this port. In size they had but few superiors in either the American or foreign merchant service. Built as strong as iron and oak could make them, they well reflected the character of the house which owned them. But a few months since, one of these ancient liners (which is now engaged in the petroleum trade) appeared in the river and was tied up at her old Walnut street berth. Immediately she became the centre of attraction to those who could remember the part she had taken in making the commercial past of Philadelphia so glorious. Under Thomas P. Cope Mr. Price received a full mercantile education. Then he spent a year with J. C. Jones, Oakford & Co., to prepare especially for the China trade, for which he appears to have had a most intense longing. However, by the time he had become of age, that trade was so depressed that he felt justified in seeking a career in another field. Accordingly he became a student of law in the office of the Honorable John Sergeant. This change of plan was certainly as fortunate for Philadelphia as for Mr. Price. There is no question but that the time spent in acquiring the details of mercantile life was of great value to him in his subsequent career. John Sergeant could not help respecting a young man who had won the esteem of the Copes by his sobriety and persistent attention to duty, and the great lawyer became and continued to be a firm friend to his pupil. The field opened by the law afforded a wider career where his relations with his fellows were more intimate, and where, above all, he could, even as an attorney, often act as judge, thus greatly contributing to peace and justice in the conflicting claims between man and man.

On May 28th, 1822, Mr. Price was admitted to the bar. From this time forward his course in life was fixed. No shadow of doubt as to his vocation appeared. The people themselves seem to have made him a real estate lawyer, and no one in this city ever surpassed him in knowledge concerning its land titles. Probably very few ever equalled him. He was universally regarded as a safe adviser. What stronger testimony in his behalf could be given? It has been remarked, by one who knew him intimately at this period of his life, that his mental concentration and singleness of purpose became so intense that he seemed to have no time to think of anything but his profession, and that he wore the appearance of a man wholly engrossed by business. This, however, was from no loss of interest in others. When he was able to tear himself from the cares of an increasing practice, his sympathies were found to be warm. He loved and was loved by children. There is no truer index to a man's heart than this.

Mr. Price married Anna, the youngest child of James and Rebecca Embree, of West Bradford, Chester county, Pennsylvania. They lived together thirty-four years. His biographical sketch of her is most touching. It was written while his grief was yet fresh. Her loss was a great sorrow, following only too fast upon that which came with the death of his daughter Rebecca. He writes: "While her remains are yet with us, I take the pen briefly to perform towards her the duty I have endeavored to discharge toward our beloved, departed daughter. I say briefly, for such I know would be her wish. . . . My busy retrospections must now be my only resource."

While with Thomas P. Cope, we are told, Mr. Price "familiarized himself with shipping and commercial law, and afterwards grappled with the harder law of real estate." It is well to give here a statement made by the late Judge Sharswood, on the occasion of that gentleman's retirement from the bench as Chief Justice of Pennsylvania: "Mr. Price has not been what we

would term a conveyancer, but in England he would have stood high in that rank which is adorned with the names of Booth and Butler, Fearne and Preston." Mr. Price was chairman of the committee appointed to examine Judge Sharswood for admission to the bar more than half a century before the following remarks were made. "His examination," says the Judge, "was a thorough one, for then, as now, everything, which it was his duty to do, was done well. I have no doubt I made a great many mistakes, but he was kind and considerate enough not to correct them." "I doubt if he could tell us, even by approximation, how many titles in this large city (which he has seen grow almost from a village to its present proportions) have passed under his cautious and scrutinizing eyes."

He had no desire either to appear in court, or to have his clients appear there. No man was ever more anxious than he that they should settle their differences in a quieter, less expensive way; and, above all, that justice should be the basis of such settlement. Indeed, it is hardly too much to say that, if a client were plainly in the wrong, Mr. Price would rather decline than undertake the case. This at once explains why he was so often consulted, and his advice so generally acted upon, in the difficulties growing out of the unfortunate division in the Society of Friends, which involved titles to properties that were often very valuable. One of the leading citizens of Chester county inserted a clause in his will that, if certain contingencies arose in the settlement of his estate, the case should be laid before Mr. Price, and his decision should be final. These facts are inserted here because they show, more plainly than any eulogistic platitudes could, what his real standing with the bar and the community was. They are simply the illustrations which come first to mind. The number could be multiplied greatly.

As late as the year 1843 it was quite clear that the State was not receiving from its citizens the amount in taxes which it should, and that the earlier apportionments to the city of Phila-

delphia and the counties of the Commonwealth were unfair. To remedy this, a revenue commission was appointed according to an act of Assembly which was passed April 29th, 1844, and entitled, "An Act to reduce the State debt and to incorporate the Pennsylvania Canal and Railroad Company." In all, there were twenty-one members. Of these Messrs. Eli K. Price, James S. Craft, Maxwell McCaslin, John Krause and Owen Jones were constituted a committee to prepare a final report, which was, after many difficulties and discouragements, completed and presented to Governor Shunk in March, 1848. The value of the work done will be best appreciated by remembering that the entire increase of the returned valuations, after the action of this board, over that fixed by the revenue commissioners in 1845 was \$43,477,255.

The work of these commissioners was evidently of a most delicate nature. They were empowered to measure practically the depth of Pennsylvania's patriotism and public spirit. The soundings were over tender spots in human character and possessions. It is not to be expected that there was no dissatisfaction over the report. But it is doubtful if any similar document could have produced less. One sentence in the report shows that the commissioners were conscious of no dishonorable or dishonest acts. "This work of revision we have intended to perform in the spirit of moderation, and for the proof of its equal and temperate justice, we confidently refer to the testimony adduced and to the record of our proceedings."

At the date of the report it was estimated that Luzerne county, now one of the richest in the State, had of property, subject to a tax of three mills on the dollar, \$354,868 less than Huntingdon county. The present enormous coal trade of the Luzerne region was not even dreamed of. In Sullivan county, adjoining Luzerne, the tax on watches amounted to but one dollar and a half, as against \$5000 paid in this city at the same time. A wilderness covered vast portions of the State.

In 1851 Mr. Price published a brief article upon that memorial of the county commissioners which asked for a repeal of the laws exempting churches, graveyards, colleges, schools, asylums, hospitals and other charitable institutions from taxation. After showing that such a repeal was against the spirit of all previous legislation here, that it was antagonistic to the very spirit under which the Commonwealth was founded, he continued: "The public squares, amounting to \$1,670,400, yield no revenue to pay taxes with, and are especially of incalculable advantage to the health and enjoyment of the people of our city and county. There is something better than mammon, and more available for security and human happiness, and therefore within the scope of the considerations that must govern the wise statesman and legislator. It will not be forgotten what is due to a consideration of a pledged legislative faith, to objects and enterprises intended for the public good, for a small sacrifice is better than that the public faith be broken."

This evoked a spirited reply; but, as Mr. Price was evidently in the right, he may be said to have won an easy victory.

We now approach the period of Mr. Price's greatest activity as a public-spirited citizen. Fifty-six years of age; for thirty-eight years a resident of Philadelphia; for thirty-one years a member of the bar engaged in the transfer of property and advising in matters requiring care, judgment and fidelity: we may fairly assume that he was well known by his fellow-citizens. Honors, clients and emoluments came now without his seeking. In 1853 Governor Bigler requested him to prepare a bill for an act entitled, "An Act relating to the sale and conveyance of real estate." Here I quote in full the details of this important measure as given elsewhere by one well qualified to state the case.

This is the preamble: "Whereas the general welfare requires that real estate should be freely alienable, and be made productive to the owners thereof; and, whereas, in matters which

the judiciary is competent to hear and decide, it is expedient that the courts should adjudicate them after a full hearing of all parties, rather than that they should be determined by special legislative acts upon an *ex parte* hearing." "The evils had been that real estate was extensively bound by trusts that made vacant ground and dilapidated buildings inalienable in title, which kept it out of the market and unproductive and unimprovable by the owners or purchasers, without a special act of Assembly, and in some instances such act would not avail. The courts for remedy were enabled to make decrees to sell, lease, mortgage, and convey on ground-rent, or to enable the trustees to build, and the reservation of rents and the purchase moneys were substituted, with security, for the land sold on the limitations of the original trusts. Thus the present generation got a better living without loss to the succeeding owners of the trust property; the dilapidations, like those that tell of long chancery suits in England, have disappeared; our city has been improved and beautified, and business accommodated; the public revenue by taxes is increased, and unfettered titles are carried into the world's commerce for the most profitable uses; purchasers holding titles already adjudicated are purged of legal questions. The Act has been in force since April 18th, 1853, and is popularly called the Price Act." "Its beneficence has been often judicially acknowledged."*

"In 1857 Mr. Price published his 'Law of the Limitation of Actions and of Liens against Real Estate.' In 1874 his treatise on 'The Act for the Sale of Real Estate' (containing 193 pages) appeared, as a reading thereon, embracing the reasons for and the decisions upon the Act."

The increase in population in and around what was originally Philadelphia, that is the two square miles contemplated by its

*The quotations which refer to the acts Mr. Price aided in having passed by our State Legislature are taken from the History of Chester County, by J. Smith Futhy and Gilbert Cope. They were compiled for that work "by Wm. E. Du-bois, assisted by J. S. Price as to legal matters."

founder, had gradually brought in its train a host of evils, which in 1853 were felt by good citizens to be no longer endurable. The growth, prosperity, and even the safety of the city, to say nothing of its good name, appeared to be hopelessly compromised by its faulty organization. Without regard to political party, the friends of municipal reform, on the 30th day of July, nominated Mr. Price for the State Senate. He promptly replied, directing his letter to Stephen Colwell, chairman, and other conferees. It was a thoroughly characteristic letter, and contains much that is even more applicable to the present than to the past state of our political affairs. For example: "The exercise of the elective franchise has become almost valueless, since the citizens are under a compulsion to vote for those whom they do not approve, or not to vote at all." It was evident he had recognized that the machinery of our elections had practically placed the citizen voter where the constitution never contemplated that he should be placed, subservient to a party, or to parties, either or both of which might be good or bad, according to circumstances. It has become even plainer now than then, that the tendency of political organization is to bury the conscience of the individual beneath the crushing weight of what influential leaders consider expediency. There is no lesson so hard for a demagogue to learn as that what is morally reprehensible can never be politically justifiable or even safe for the party that advocates it. Such a truth is utterly beyond the comprehension, or acceptance, of one who, seeking only present good, can never take the view of a statesman anticipating the forces and results which may follow in the remoter future.

In a letter to his friend, the late Judge Haines, Mr. Price expresses his opinion very freely concerning methods used in pursuit of office. It bears the date of March 17th, 1854 (he was then a Senator). It deserves reproduction here:

"MY DEAR SIR:—Your letter of 16th Jan'y not being a business one, I laid it by for a leisure moment, and that moment I

have not yet found. I must now write to get rid of my self-reproach. I did not then appreciate so fully, as I now do, these words: 'How contemptible appear the tricks and contrivances of party to secure or retain power!' You spoke thus from much ampler opportunities of observation than I have had, but I have verified the truth of your exclamation. When I went to the Senate, it was with a resolution to do what I should be myself convinced was right; not, it is true, expecting many others to be so transcendental in their views. I have a large confidence, too, in the goodness of human nature, and yet hold to my faith; and look upon those, who lose character, with a considerable degree of charity, as the victims of ignorance or accidental associations. But what is to be thought of Whig leaders and the best that the Senate claims, who have, some of them, high integrity in their ordinary transactions and in their duty to the State, yielding their expressed convictions to win capital to their own party and perhaps to their own support as candidates for governor?"

In accepting the nomination for the State Senate, Mr. Price did so with the express understanding that he was to give no pledges which would forestall discussion, and that he was to do nothing to ensure his own election. The special reasons for this union of his fellow-citizens upon him were: first, to secure the consolidation of the city; second, to substitute a paid for a volunteer fire department; and third, to have legislation which would suppress, or at least hold in check, the intemperance against which so many of Philadelphia's best citizens were then engaged in an active crusade. Horace Binney had said to his son, "I should think your battle would be half won if you could place Mr. Price's name, with his consent, at the head of your ticket." The history of the consolidation of this city will be alluded to later. We have now to consider the action of Mr. Price in regard to the temperance cause.

After Mr. Price's election a Rev. Mr. Rood wrote to ask him

what he would attempt for the temperance cause, and what he thought he could accomplish. This called for a reply from Mr. Price of the same date (October 31st, 1853), in which he favored the passage of a bill to submit the question of prohibition to a vote of the people of the Commonwealth, and from the result to ascertain what legislation public opinion would sanction and support. He saw clearly enough that this was not what the extreme temperance people desired; but at the same time he recognized the folly of attempting to enforce a law which the people would not endorse. These are his words: "By taking care to be preceded by an authentic expression of public opinion we will act safely for a good cause, and more effectually promote the good of our fellow-citizens." "While you and your clerical brethren invoke the strong arm of the law and await its enactment, there is no occasion to cease your efforts to do good in the cause. You have in hand the work of persuasion, and conviction must still go on as the necessary preparative measure." "We have all our lives to do good, and we can do nothing better than to be always doing it; and what we leave unfinished, we will enjoin upon our children to finish." "I shall be *prepared to go for that which shall be most effective to suppress intemperance, that the people can be persuaded and convinced to sustain.*"

Under date of January 30th, 1854, Mr. Rood wrote to Messrs. Price and Patterson, asking them to support the bill, "To prohibit the manufacture and sale of intoxicating drinks as a common beverage, and the sale of alcohol and ardent spirits, except to authorized agents for medicinal, mechanical and artistic purposes." It was desired that this should go into effect on March 1st, 1855, and be followed by an enactment authorizing a vote on its repeal by the people on the second Tuesday in September.

On February 8th, 1854, the Prohibitory Liquor Bill was in order at Harrisburg. When the eighth section, authorizing a warrant of search in case of a complaint of a violation of the law, was read, a motion was made to postpone. Mr. Price

then rose and said he was not willing that this motion should prevail, and continued, "But I have been educated in certain sturdy notions of the rights and liberties of the people, inherited from the common law of our ancestors, and embodied in our State Constitution. It is therein declared that among the inherent and indefeasible rights of all men is that 'of acquiring, possessing and protecting property,' and also, 'that the people shall be secure in their persons, houses, and possessions from unreasonable searches and seizures.' Both of these above provisions, bulwarks of our rights and liberties, are invaded by this bill—unnecessarily and unwisely invaded by it." This of course provoked the bitter hostility of extreme temperance men. The *North American and United States Gazette*, in commenting upon Mr. Price's conduct, said: "Still there is an intrepidity of disinterestedness in his course, which is as unusual as it is heroic, and which must challenge the respect and confidence even of those who differ with him." Farther on the same article said of this eighth section: "For the usual rule is reversed and the accused must prove his innocence instead of standing guiltless till proved otherwise." What wonder then that a man of Mr. Price's loyalty to law and individual rights refused his sanction to so atrocious a measure.

The "Temperance Committee," on February 16th, 1854, sent a letter to Mr. Price. They felt aggrieved at his action concerning the eighth section, and also at the suggestion that he preferred to support a modified and more stringent license law, rather than their prohibition bill. The committee also reminded Mr. Price that but for the efforts of the temperance party he would have failed of his election "by more than two thousand votes." Rather an intemperate suggestion one might well admit on remembering that in so far from seeking or desiring election he was more than indifferent about it, and only consented to abandon his more congenial duties because the public, without regard to party, requested it.

Mr. Price's reply was written on the following day (February 17th, 1854). It was clear that he had "the courage of his convictions." He adhered absolutely to all that he had said and all that he had believed prior to his election, and closed with the "sincere hope that so much good feeling and zeal as I believe to actuate you may be made available in a tempered and practical result for the repression of intemperance." The letter should have been convincing as to his sincerity. Especially strong was one sentence in it: "When you nominated me, it is true you knew the 'antecedents' of my life, and when your committee entered my office, the first thing I told them was, that the only pledge I would give them was that which my life would afford."

On February 21st, "the intemperate resolutions of the extreme temperance men were adopted." The fact, however, that of fifteen Vice-Presidents named at the meeting, "it is believed not more than one or two were present, and six have no known residence among the constituency of Mr. Price," and that three wrote notes and one published a card that their names had been used without their knowledge or consent, should at once show how ill-judged and intemperate some of the proceedings had been. Mr. George H. Stuart's published card was a severe censure, which left these radical gentlemen in rather a sad plight before the public. The *Philadelphia Register*, of February 20th, summed up the whole thing in the statement that "Mr. Price has not changed, but a few of the temperance men have."

The friends of Mr. Price called a mass meeting on the evening of March 3d. The result was a triumphant vindication of his course by the most influential citizens of Philadelphia. The remarks of Mr. Frederic Fraley (may he long survive) were a heart-felt tribute to the courage and character of Mr. Price. The frequent applause which they elicited showed what entire confidence the community had in the Senator. In nothing did his character appear more admirable than in this unpleasant contest. He stood like a wall between extreme partisans and

the constitution, which protected and guaranteed equal rights to all men.

On April 6th and 7th, 1855, Mr. Price spoke in the Senate on the bill to restrain the sale of intoxicating liquors. It is to be observed that those who had so recently upbraided him for his supposed want of zeal in the temperance cause, were now humbled and disheartened by their failure to induce extreme legislation. Mr. Price ought to have more than redeemed himself in their eyes by his generous forgiveness of the past and by his earnest efforts to ensure the passage of a bill which would be constitutional and efficient.

Aside from the great interests which he was chosen to represent, Mr. Price was also active in other directions in the Senate. "He drafted and had passed the Act of 1855, relating to charitable corporations" (P. L. 328); "and also the Act of April 27th, 1855, barring estates tail" (P. L. 368).

His sympathies were always in the direction of humanity. No one can point to an act of his which tended to increase the burden of any honest toiler. The legislative Act of May 4th, 1855, "relating to certain duties and rights of husband and wife, and parents and children," was one which brought relief to many an aching heart. It "enabled the wife to become a *femme sole* trader; to own her own earnings and dispose of her property while living, and when dying, without his interference; and, if she died intestate, it enabled her next of kin to take it. If by drunkenness, profligacy, or other cause, he shall neglect or refuse to provide for his child or children, the mother shall have all the rights of the father and perform his duties; may place the children at employment and receive their earnings, or bind them to apprenticeship, without the interference of such a husband, in the same manner as the father now can do by law; but if the mother also be of unsuitable character, the court is to appoint a guardian of such children with like powers. A husband guilty of such conduct for a year preceding his wife's death for-

feits all right to her estate and also the right to appoint a testamentary guardian of his children" (P. L. 430; also History of Chester County, p. 698). This legislation in favor of humanity has well been said to be "an advance on the statute book of any civilized nation, and was necessary, as these protections were not covered by our Act of 1848, passed to secure to married women their own property."

In 1856 he "secured the passage of sections enabling a deserted or unsupported wife, or one divorced from bed and board, to protect her reputation by action of slander and libel, and to sue for her earnings and property, and to receipt for and give refunding bonds for legacies and shares of decedents' estates" (P. L. 315). He was the author and ardent advocate of an "Act for the greater security of title and more secure enjoyment of real estate." This became a law in 1856, and embraces so many important points that I quote in full what his son has said about it. It "cuts off all the exceptions to land limitations of twenty-one years after thirty years; requiring all ejectments for land and liens acquired by levies on real estate to be indexed, to give notice to purchasers and mortgagees; all trusts relating to land to be manifested by writing, except when they arise by implication; specific performance, etc., to be demanded within five years; wills duly proved to stand unless objected to within five years; surviving executors and administrators to exercise testamentary powers of sale; regulates subrogation to liens; and provides that, in partition, the highest bidder is to have the choice of shares (P. L. 532). He also drew up the Act of 1859, which requires action within a year after entry made on land to stop the running of the statute of limitations in favor of the possessor, and to bar the remainder after the tenant in tail is barred" (P. L. 603).

As a citizen his activity was always in a safe direction. To illustrate this, I quote again from his son. "He was also the author of many Acts of municipal legislation, passed with a

view to the health, comfort and security of the citizens of Philadelphia; among others, that no street or alley is ever to be laid out of a less width than twenty-five feet. If any house now standing on a street narrower than that shall be taken down, the owner, in rebuilding, must set it back to that regulation. Every new house shall have a curtilage of at least 144 square feet of open space. There must be a parapet wall of brick or stone between the roofs of all houses, extending through the cornices, to prevent the spread of fire. A Board of Building Inspectors was also created, to see that all buildings are safely erected, and in accordance with the strict requirements of law. A Board of Revision of Taxes was established, to compel equality of valuation for taxation, and to supervise all assessments of property. A Survey Department to lay out plans for streets, culverts, etc., was also created, to which was attached a registry bureau, in which must be registered every deed or conveyance of real estate before it can be recorded, with a plan of the premises conveyed, so that no property shall escape taxation. And if there be conflict of claim of title, it can be promptly known, as no careful conveyancer passes any title without a certificate of search. He also prepared most of the sections of the Park Act of 1868.”*

How active and efficient his exertions in behalf of our Centennial Exhibition were is within the memory of most here tonight.

In 1852 Mr. Price published a memorial sketch of the lives of his parents. It appears that he was the sole author, though the name of his brother Philip also appears on the title page, and he helped to print and to circulate the book. Though in this volume Mr. Eli K. Price states that he was not then a member of the “Society of Friends,” it is very certain that their moderate and just principles were the directing power of his life. This little book (pp. 192) is a most tender tribute to the memory of

*These quotations, also, come from the valuable “History of Chester County,” to which allusion has already been made. It is among the very best works of its class that our county has yet produced.

his revered parents. Probably better than any of his published writings does it reveal the profound religious convictions of the author.

In 1864 he read before this Society a brief paper upon the family as an element of government. Some of the ideas expressed in it were worthy of Herbert Spencer, and indeed one may almost say were prophetic of Spencer's views. The argument is at once a noble tribute to woman as the guardian of the race, and also a reflection of the innate purity of his own soul.

Love for, and pride in, his ancestry were strongly marked features in Mr. Price's character. Accordingly it does not surprise us to see him taking a conspicuous place in the "Centennial Family Meeting" of the descendants of Philip and Rachel Price, held at the old homestead, in East Bradford, in 1864. Friend that he was, at heart, there was one sentence in the account of the event (which he subsequently published) that must be quoted here. Our long civil war was drawing to a close. The agony of suspense was well-nigh spent, for it was clear that it was merely a question of time until the flag of the Union should float triumphantly over the entire land. He writes: "And what have the children of Philip and Rachel Price to say for those of their descendants who have been, or who are, absent from their homes, because fighting the battles of their country? On such an occasion, when met to commemorate our parents, we must bring all of ourselves and all that belongs to us into a comparison with these high exemplars and note the disparities. We have to say that, though it has not reached our sense of duty to do as these brave youths of our blood have done, we love them not the less, as our parents would have loved them not the less, for having obeyed *their own sense of duty* when their government and country were stricken by traitor hands."

Bound in the same volume with the last two papers, I find "A Discourse upon the Trial by Jury." It was read May 1st, 1863, before this Society. It shows how profoundly its author, Mr.

Price, had studied the subject. It is more than probable that, not only all juries, but many judges might read it with advantage to themselves and to those on trial.

In July, 1866, he read before the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia a brief commentary upon some important but now obscure allusions to Revolutionary times, to which he added a short notice of the Pemberton family, which he says was ancient in England before the settlement of Pennsylvania.

In 1872 his busy mind was exercised in another direction. This time, upon the phases of modern philosophy, especially such as were attaining a rank luxuriance under the stimulus of the then latest ideas upon evolution. His published criticisms show remarkable acuteness in detection of the weak points in the new hypothesis. The facts were many of them strange, the relations of the facts were almost wholly strange: at least they assumed more scientific form and were under a more scientific presentation than ever before. What wonder then that Mr. Price failed, as most others did, to take in the whole subject at the first draught. It is well known that neither Mr. Darwin nor Mr. Spencer comprehended all that their doctrines taught, or even dreamed how widely their conclusions would reach and apply. Evolution itself was slowly evolved out of the best thoughts of the world's scientific leaders. Its propositions were then few, and its corollaries hardly more numerous. Already it has created a literature of its own, is as sure as the theory of gravitation and not less far-reaching. No man accepted more fully than Mr. Price did, in his later years, the abstract idea of evolution. The only question in his mind was, how far can it be considered operative? Here he was judiciously slow in deciding, and it would have been better for science if others had imitated his prudence. The largest task of the next century will be the sifting out and rejecting from the body of science such fancies as have been mistaken for facts and taught accordingly. Mr. Price

intended to act, as a judge with conservative tendencies would do.

His paper on this subject, read March 1st, 1872, is one of intense common sense, with here and there passages, which are eloquent from earnest conviction. To the average thinking man his argument will always have great weight; for it is in sympathy with human longings which no philosophy can ever moderate or change.

Having himself been a most active participant in the measures which led to the consolidation of this city, Mr. Price was by unanimous vote of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, on October 28th, 1872, requested to prepare "The History of the Consolidation of the City of Philadelphia." The dedication is to the venerable Horace Binney, and bears the date of December, 1872. It is a duodecimo of 140 pages. To give a clear idea of the increase in population around the original city, he investigates the early charters. The city, as contemplated by its founders, was to contain 1280 acres—exactly two square miles. The first city charter was not granted until October 25th, 1701, though its charter as a borough was about seventeen years older. On March 11th, 1789, a second city charter was obtained.

Step by step, *outside of the city proper*, the following districts were incorporated, and in the following order: Southwark, in 1762; Northern Liberties, in 1771; Moyamensing, in 1812; Spring Garden, in 1813; Kensington, in 1820; Penn, in 1844; Richmond, in 1847; West Philadelphia, in 1851; Belmont, in 1853.

It is enough to say that each district had its own police force, and that to escape arrest, for the time, it was simply necessary to step across an imaginary line from one district into another.

A meeting in behalf of consolidation of these disjointed members of the body politic into a compact city, whose government should be better and less expensive, and whose further expansion should be unlimited, was held on November 16th, 1849. It

was attended by more than eighty of our then leading citizens. Nothing had done so much to prepare the public for the contemplated change, as the mobs of 1844.

They supplied all fair-minded men with ample evidence that in city politics, party lines must be abandoned and concert of action effected on this vital question. There could be neither peace nor progress without it.

Added to those riots which sprang out of creed or color, were others more serious (because more frequent) which grew out of the volunteer fire system. In the spring of 1853, another meeting was called to consider the latter cause of trouble, and, if possible, to devise means for its suppression. It was a foregone conclusion, this need of consolidation. The only question was, on what basis should it be effected. To accomplish it, legislative action was requisite. Public sentiment settled upon Mr. Price as the man to represent this part of the city's interest in the State capital. He was not offered the office as an honor, for it was felt he would honor the office, but it was tendered as a sacrifice of inclination and of interest, which he must make for the public good. And as such he accepted the nomination for the office of State Senator. To say that for the mere honor of office, which so possesses some small minds, he cared nothing, is to make a very mild statement of the fact. In so far from spending time or money to gain a seat in our legislative halls, Mr. Price would have given freely to be allowed to remain a private citizen. His letter of acceptance, read by his friend, Mr. Joseph B. Townsend, before the nominating convention, is in all respects a remarkable one. The expressions, brief and sharp, in which he pointed out the dangers from what has since culminated in that greatest of political curses known as the *Boss System*, are now recognized as prophetic.

Mr. Price (as already stated) was elected "by independent voters who left their party attachment and discipline" in the interest of the greatest good of this city.

We can go no further into details here, than to say in the words of the memorial presented to the State Senate on January 3d, 1854, that among other things, consolidation "dispenses with a multitude of treasurers, solicitors, clerks, superintendents, or their equivalents, besides a host of subordinates. It dispenses with 168 tax collectors, and will cause a saving in this one item alone of \$100,000 per year."

Of course any bill which promised to make such sweeping reductions in the number of office-holders would be opposed by that disinterested fraternity; and at once the specious argument was advanced before its passage by the Lower House, that the consolidation would endanger the city trusts. It is creditable to the men of all parties in the city, and to their representatives at the State capital, that the argument was estimated at its true worth, and the bill passed by an almost unanimous vote.

The select committee of the Senators of the City and County of Philadelphia, of which Mr. Price was chairman, in its report to the Senate compressed the whole truth into the single statement that, "while nearly all the cities of our continent have been allowed freedom of expansion, and have bounded forward in population and wealth, the City of Philadelphia had fallen, in 1850, from the first to the second in wealth, and the fourth in population." There was no resisting such an argument.

It was a great day for Philadelphia when the Consolidation bill passed. One can hardly imagine how dark a day it would have been had the bill been rejected, or even essentially modified.

Mr. Price's friend and companion, the venerable and revered Frederic Fraley, had much to do with giving shape to the ideas of the sub-committee and committee appointed to prepare the bill for presentation to the Legislature. His large business capacity and intimate knowledge of the details of city government were freely offered in the public interest. He may well rejoice now in the beneficent results of his labor. It was a

master stroke which made the office of City Controller an elective one, in which the people decided who should oversee public expenditures. Maladministration thus lay largely at the doors of the voters. Did space permit, this portion of Mr. Price's useful life might well receive more extended notice.

In November, 1873, he published in some of our leading State papers eight brief articles, giving his objections to our proposed new State Constitution. It is needless to say that his points were well chosen and ably defended. After a lapse of thirteen years, some of the evils he then foresaw have proved gigantic enough to threaten our whole social fabric. It is proper that these objections be here briefly recorded.

The first was that, as compared with the rest of the State, Philadelphia was inadequately represented in our Legislature.

The second was, that it prescribed limits to the powers of the Legislature, stated rules to be observed, prohibited bribery and corruption, showed how even a clerical mistake might become a law (as it has done); but gave no method of enforcing right or punishing wrong in certain important contingencies.

The third showed that the election of judges was practically placed in the hands of a self-elected caucus.

The fourth was, that the proposed equality of taxation was not only a hardship in Philadelphia, but an express violation of assurances properly given prior to the passage of the Act of Consolidation, and also that the proposition to tax charitable and educational institutions and churches was in violation of traditional policy so old, and so often expressed, that it had become sacred as unwritten law, even if not actually on the statute books.

The fifth point was, that in apportionment of the State revenues under the proposed new Constitution, "no moneys of the State could be applied to any purpose of charity, education, or benevolence, or to develop our resources, or to gratify or instruct the people;" and that even after payment of the State debt these prohibitions would remain the same.

The sixth exception was mainly in regard to corporations. Mr. Price contended that justice had not been done them in the way of protection. On the other hand this Constitution left room for *unjust* discrimination, for cutting rates, for bribes in the way of free passes, and yet prescribed no penalty. It is probable Mr. Price recognized that even discrimination in freights might prove in one way a benefit to the masses, however hard it bore upon producers near the points where the products were consumed. It can hardly be supposed, however, that even he saw then the disastrous extent to which discrimination could be carried by our own corporations against our own citizens. Loyalty to his State, in him, reached the measure of devotion; and he would have spared no corporation that struck unjustly by discrimination at any legitimate business of his fellow-citizens.

The seventh objection was an echo of the first on the inadequate representation for Philadelphia.

The eighth, and last, objection concerned, mainly, the methods of administering justice in the city. The manner of electing magistrates placed the franchise practically in the hands of ward politicians. While the State was amply protected, "the citizens of no city have any protection from the evils of bribery, corruption and fraud." Though warned in advance of the needs of the cities, the constitutional convention "left us helpless of remedy, as before, and thus virtually deferred to and perpetuated the municipal rings, and permitted plunder to flourish."

These strictures were made before the new Constitution was voted upon by the people. Can any fair-minded man now deny how just they were, or how much needed? Mr. Price was warned by certain persons that he was acting to his own injury. His dignified defiance of all threats was simply characteristic of the man. The peaceful son of a peaceful sect, how often had he proved a very lion in the path of public plunderers. It is no exaggeration to say that he would have endured martyrdom for his principles. His appearance, conduct and mode of expres-

sion told plainly enough that he had a courage beyond intimidation. In pursuit of wrong-doers, he was simply merciless and unrelenting. Yet his admiration for industry and honesty were just as marked.

The Pennsylvania Colonization Society requested Mr. Price to prepare a biographical sketch of its former Vice-President, Dr. Edward F. Rivinus, who was also his personal friend. This sketch was an affectionate tribute to the memory of one who was an associate in a congenial cause.

Early in 1876 he prepared and read before this body a paper upon "The Glacial Epochs."

It is a review of the opinions held by the leading advocates of glacial action. How far time modified Mr. Price's objections to the hypothesis I have no means of knowing. It is certain, however, that he was more favorably inclined to it during his later years. The paper itself is a marvel of cross-questioning. Hardly any other than a legal mind could have produced it.

Prior to 1867 the question arose as to what were the legal uses of the so-called Penn Squares, which were in the older part of the city. Several citizens, who were joint-committee men of the Academy of Natural Sciences, the Library Company of Philadelphia, the American Philosophical Society, the Academy of the Fine Arts, and the Franklin Institute, asked Mr. Price's opinion upon the subject. This was subsequently published. It is well enough that the conclusions reached be given here; for they cannot be too well known, or too widely circulated among our citizens. Mr. Price held that the Central Square could and should, in justice to Penn's wishes and without any betrayal of public trust, be used as a building site for such educational institutions as were represented by the above committeemen; because these five Penn Squares were laid down by the first surveyor-general (Thomas Holmes), and it was specified, by implication, if not directly, in the "advertisement annexed to the List of First Purchasers," that, whereas the four others

were to be kept open, the central one was to have upon it "houses for public affairs—as a meeting house, assembly or State house, market house, school house, and several other buildings for public concerns." That pamphlet should least of all be forgotten by this Society, as it declares our legal status in times of either peace or war.

Prior to 1876 the legacy of André Francois Michaux became available to this Society. It is worthy of note that our honored chief in botany, Prof. Asa Gray, was present at the preparation of that will, and it is more than possible made suggestions which should be kindly esteemed here. This, however, is conjecture. Mr. Price was made chairman of the committee having in charge the execution of the Michaux trust. In 1876 he read his report here, showing that the income had been judiciously expended, and, almost as enthusiastically as if he had been half a century younger, he stated his plans and the hopes which grew out of the fund. It can hardly be said that this legacy from France started Mr. Price upon the agitation of the timber question and the necessity of a national and state system of forestry. His fondness for trees was an inherited one, and all his life he had been a tree-planter. For a score of years he had witnessed with sadness the wholesale destruction and waste of our forest growth. It was thus a happy chance which associated his name with that of Michaux. No man could have had a stronger or more practical leaning toward the execution of such a trust, and no man would have been more certain to see that the testator's wishes were religiously carried out.

I thus desire here to record the fact that of all those who, in this State, agitated the timber question before it had commended itself to the public judgment, the most efficient was *Eli Kirk Price*. He has had his share of sympathy for having gone so wide of the mark (it was thought by some) as to predict that there ever could be a dearth of timber in this land. Now that the whole country is awakening to a recognition of the truth of what he

taught, let him have the credit of a prophet and a public benefactor.

In this connection it is but just that I also mention the name of another Pennsylvanian, the Honorable Washington Townsend, who, when a member of Congress, was chairman of the Committee on Public Lands, which started the late Franklin Hough on his productive career as a compiler of forest law and literature for our national use.

It is a matter of regret that Mr. Price did not live to witness the observance of Arbor Day, when the school-children all over the State were engaged in planting the trees under whose shade future generations might rejoice. Those who see what the day has done in Nebraska will recognize something more than sentiment in its observance.

In November and December, 1877, Mr. Price read before the American Philosophical Society a paper on Sylviculture. This apparently was suggested by the duty of utilizing the income from the Michaux legacy. It is, however, important as being among the first studied papers upon that subject published in this city. Considering how much we were then in the dark, as to the precise facts and statistics of American forestry, it is a wonderfully clear statement of wants and remedies as applied to our own soil. A year later he supplemented it by a briefer one.

On March 20th, 1879, the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia presented him, its President, with a silver medal in commemoration of the twenty-first anniversary of the foundation of that organization. Dr. Daniel G. Brinton, who has earned so distinguished a place in anthropological science, made the presentation address, after Mr. Henry Phillips, Jr., had delivered and explained the medal itself. On its obverse this medal bore the name and portrait of Mr. Price, and on the reverse were the seal and date of the foundation of the Society. Mr. Price made a brief and felicitous response.

Greatly as Mr. Price valued such a tribute of respect and

veneration, the moderation evinced in his reply was thoroughly characteristic.

His active interest in the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society appears in his contributions made from time to time.

On January 15th, 1884, the friends of Mr. James J. Barclay gathered at the Philadelphia House of Refuge to celebrate his ninetieth birthday. Mr. Price spoke effectively and affectionately on the occasion. Listening to what was said of Mr. Barclay, Mr. Price could hardly avoid recognizing that much of it was also applicable to himself. Age, fidelity, exemplary private life, recognition by the best citizens as Philadelphia's most respected men, came in equal measure to them both.

Of those who began life with Mr. Price, but few survive. Among them Dr. Ezra Michener stands pre-eminent as a public-spirited citizen and as a scientist. The tribute paid by this venerable gentleman to Mr. Price, who was once his room-mate and always his friend, is of the warmest character.

For many years Mr. Price was an active member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania. He gave no stinted measure of care and interest to that great institution, and more than once aided it from his own financial resources. It is not too much to say that his legal knowledge was of the greatest importance in the administration of its real estate. He was also President of the Preston Retreat, one of our noblest charitable institutions. He was also one of the original members of the Park Commission, and, as chairman of its committee on land damages and purchases, passed under his personal supervision all the titles to the large area now occupied by the people's pleasure ground, which aggregates in value nearly eight millions of dollars, this, too, without any charge whatever for his services.

In concluding what is here said of Mr. Price as a public character, it appears proper to quote from a letter written by him to a relative twenty years ago. There was no suspicion in his mind that any part of the letter would ever be published. Hence

a peculiar value attaches to the following extract as indicating his own real integrity of character.

“Having said so much, I am now going to offer thee some cautions; but these are also for thy encouragement. But whatever thee may do I wish to see it over thy own name, or initials, or none. In discussing sacred truths no unusual name should be assumed. For myself, I write nothing that I would not put my name or initials to; first because they give authenticity to what is written and help the effort that should be kept uppermost to tell the best truth we know in the best manner we can. The writing thus authenticated will have a greater weight with our contemporaries, and if read yet later will be our testimony, borne from one generation to the next. If we write with sincerity of purpose under a sense of duty, we need not be disturbed by the apprehension of criticism; for, if others can do better, let them try it, and for one I shall be thankful to them.”

His love for this commonwealth was only exceeded by his love of truth. It would be difficult to write a history of this State or City without reference to the services which he has rendered directly or indirectly. No movement of public policy which he inaugurated or actively aided was other than a benefit to those in whose times he lived.

We can hardly tell when he began to grow old. The erect, commanding frame gradually became a little bent, and the vigorous step a little more slow; but up to the evening of November 14th, 1884, when he was in his eighty-eighth year, his mind was active and his interest in human affairs warm.

He lay down in usual health, and just before the dawn of November 15th, passed quietly to his eternal reward. He saw the sun rise out of a cloudless horizon from near the throne. Anticipating the change, he had written:

“I hear celestial billows roll,
Before I've reached the parting strand:
I listen with transported soul
To music from the better land.”

He had lived so simply, and cared for himself so systematically, that there was no real disease. The machinery of life quietly stopped when the full measure of work was done, and the world was left the poorer because a great, good man had gone.

Admirable as he was in his public relations, he was no less admirable in his family life. He carried to his home all the charm of a gentle, affectionate, thoughtful man.

The children of Mr. Price were:

I. Rebecca E., married to Hanson L. Withers.

II. John Sergeant.

III. Sibyl E., married to Starr H. Nicholls.

Of these, the son, an eminent lawyer of this city, alone survived him.

Whatever we may think of ourselves, the fact is, the example of such a man as the subject of this sketch may be studied with advantage by all. There was not in his early life anything which placed him in a conspicuous light before the world. He entered upon his career with simply honest ancestry and personal rectitude and good health to favor him. Yet without self-seeking, without fawning to powerful patronage, without sacrifice of self-respect, without ceasing to condemn wrong, he became one of the most conspicuous men in this city, which claims a population of a million inhabitants. Why was it?

I. Because his fidelity to trust was absolutely unassailable. No man ever lived in whom this was stronger. A trust was as sacred to him and as binding upon him as though the exact case had been specified in the volume of revelation.

II. Because, when called upon to express an opinion, he did so from his honest conviction, without the slightest regard to what friend or foe might think of it; and his actions were always as positive as his opinions. But with all this, he was singularly tolerant of the honest opinions of others.

III. Because he was usually in advance of his times, and often

very far in advance. It is only requisite here to specify his relations to the park, to the timber, colonization and abolition questions in illustration of the above statement.

IV. Because he held to the plan of work which he had laid out for himself with undeviating steadiness through a long, active life.

These may be called modest qualifications with which to win the universal esteem in which Mr. Price was held. True, yet it appears they were sufficient. He was not a great genius, nor a man of destiny, but he was something better than either—an honest worker. His intuitions never did duty instead of his convictions, for the latter maintained their supremacy throughout, and were only trusted when fully weighed. This explains why during so long a life Mr. Price was seldom obliged to reverse an opinion once formed.

His virtues were of the Spartan kind. The style of literature may change from century to century. The science of to-day may be rejected as insufficient in the next score of years. Habits of thought, dress, social usage, all these are ephemeral; but simple, perennial honesty can never become antiquated. The more corrupt a nation may become, the more will it be needed, and the longer will it be respected. A life moulded by conscience and warmed by love can never be other than a benefaction to those living under its influence. It is not claimed that the subject of this sketch was perfect. What mortal can be? Nor was he without enemies. High integrity and moral convictions must always clash with less noble elements. But with all this, no better advice can be given to those who follow than to be as much like him as possible. Eli Kirk Price may well be taken as an ideal worthy of imitation.